

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 312

Expressing the sense of the Senate on empowering and strengthening the
United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BOND) submitted
the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign
Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate on empowering and
strengthening the United States Agency for International
Development (USAID).

Whereas foreign development assistance is an important for-
eign policy tool in addition to diplomacy and the military;

Whereas the United States is currently involved in two wars,
both of which military and civilian experts agree can only
be solved with sound development strategies to com-
plement military efforts;

Whereas development assistance is part of any comprehensive
United States response to regional conflicts, terrorist
threats, weapons proliferation, disease pandemics, and
persistent widespread poverty;

Whereas, in 2002 and 2006, the United States National Security Strategy included global development, along with the military and diplomacy, as the three pillars of national security;

Whereas, in its early years, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had more than 5,000 full-time Foreign Service Officers and 15,000 total staff;

Whereas, in 2008, USAID had slightly more than 1,000 full-time Foreign Service Officers and 3,000 total staff;

Whereas the loss in permanent staff and institutional expertise at USAID has compelled it to rely disproportionately on outside contractors to help manage programs in more than 150 countries;

Whereas the USAID managed program budget, calculated in real dollars, has dropped more than 40 percent since 1985;

Whereas, from the early 1960s until 1992, the Office of Management and Budget enforced a rule mandating that all foreign aid programs and spending must go through USAID, except when USAID chose to contract with other Federal agencies;

Whereas today more than half of all aid programs are administered by Federal agencies other than USAID, and development funding is spread across more than 20 United States Government agencies; and

Whereas this decline in personnel, budgets, and coordinating leadership has diminished the capacity of USAID and the United States Government to provide development assistance and implement foreign assistance programs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) a highly capable and knowledgeable indi-
3 vidual should be nominated with all expediency and
4 exigency to serve as the Administrator of the United
5 States Agency for International Development;

6 (2) the Administrator should—

7 (A) serve as the chief advocate for United
8 States development capacity and strategy in
9 top-level national security deliberations;

10 (B) serve as a powerful advocate and effec-
11 tive leader of an empowered USAID; and

12 (C) marshal the resources, knowledge, ca-
13 pacity, and experiences of the Agency—

14 (i) to effectively represent the Agency
15 in interagency debate and in advancing
16 and executing foreign policy; and

17 (ii) to improve ultimately the effective-
18 ness and capability of United States for-
19 eign assistance;

20 (3) the United States Agency for International
21 Development must be empowered to be the primary
22 development agency of the United States and to
23 serve as the principal advisor to the President and
24 national security organs of the United States Gov-

1 ernment on the capacity and strategy of United
2 States development assistance;

3 (4) the Administrator should substantially and
4 transparently increase the total number of full-time
5 Foreign Service Officers employed by the Agency in
6 order to enhance the ability of the Agency to—

7 (A) carry out development activities
8 around the world by providing the Agency with
9 additional human resources and expertise need-
10 ed to meet important development and humani-
11 tarian needs around the world;

12 (B) strengthen the institutional capacity of
13 the Agency as the lead development agency of
14 the United States; and

15 (C) more effectively help developing na-
16 tions to become more stable, healthy, demo-
17 cratic, prosperous, and self-sufficient; and

18 (5) the Administrator should submit a strategy
19 to Congress that includes—

20 (A) a plan to create a professional training
21 program that will provide new and current
22 Agency employees with technical, management,
23 leadership, and language skills;

24 (B) a 5-year staffing plan; and

- 1 (C) a description of further resources and
- 2 statutory changes necessary to implement the
- 3 proposed training and staffing plans.

